

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
DODE-00 /059 W
-----170612Z 067306 /13

R 161923Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2241
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USNMR SHAPE
USMISSION OCED PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USNATO 1505

EO11652 N/A
TAGS LFOR NATO
SUBJECT PROPOSED DCM/POLITICAL COUNSELORS' CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: WE RECOMMEND THAT ANOTHER DCM/POLADS CONFERENCE BE HELD
AT NATO IN JUNE. USEC AGREES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENTS
VIEWS. END SUMMARY.

1. WE NOTE THAT WASHINGTON IS PLANNING A MEETING OF SENIOR ECONOMIC
OFFICERS IN WESTERN EUROPE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF UNDER SECRETARY
COOPER ON APRIL 21-22 IN BRUSSELS (STATE 045448). WE BELIEVE THAT
IT ALSO WOULD BE USEFUL TO SCHEDULE SOON ANOTHER DCM/POLADS CON-
FERENCE AT NATO, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

-- CONSULATIONS AMONG OUR DCMS AND POLADS IN EUROPE AND POLICY
LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM WASHINGTON WILL ASSIST OUR EMBASSIES IN EUROPE
TO CARRY OUT MORE EFFECTIVELY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES.

-- A DCM/POLADS CONFERENCE OFFERS THE PARTICIPANTS A UNIQUE OPPOR-
TUNITY TO MEET WITH POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM WASHINGTON AS WELL
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AS COLLEAGUES FROM OTHER EUROPEAN POSTS TO DISCUSS US-EUROPEAN
RELATIONS AND US POLICY IMPLEMENTATION IN DEPTH.

2. WE BELIEVE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE HELD IN BRUSSELS BECAUSE OF
THE AVAILABILITY OF SUITABLE CONFERENCE FACILITIES IN USNATO, THE
CENTRAL LOCATION OF BRUSSELS, AND THE POSSIBILITY FOR MEETING WITH
SENIOR NON-US OFFICIALS FROM NATO, THE COMMON MARKET AND SHAPE.

3. ON TIMING, A CONFERENCE AROUND MID-TO-LATE JUNE FOLLOWING THE
SUMMIT MEETING IN LONDON, SECRETARY VANCE'S MOSCOW VISIT, THE NAC,

DPC AND NPG SPRING MINISTERIALS, AND BEFORE THE BELGRADE REVIEW CONFERENCES, SEEMS APPROPRIATE. BY JUNE THE NEW ADMINISTRATION ALSO WILL HAVE DEVELOPED IN MORE DETAIL ITS POLICIES ON KEY ISSUES. WE BELIEVE THIS MEETING, LIKE THE LAST MEETING IN FEBRUARY 1976, SHOULD RUN FOR TWO AND ONE-HALF DAYS, TO ALLOW FOR MEETINGS BOTH AT USNATO AND USEC. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, WE SUGGEST EITHER JUNE 15-17 OR JUNE 22-24 AS MEETING DATES.

4. WE WOULD WELCOME WASHINGTON PARTICIPATION AND BELIEVE THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE WILL DEPEND ON SENIOR-LEVEL WASHINGTON PARTICIPATION FROM EUR, S/P, ACDA, PM, AND OSD/ISA. WE HOPE THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN WOULD BE ABLE TO CHAIR THE CONFERENCE AND, IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, THAT DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LOWENSTEIN WOULD DO SO. WE BELIEVE THAT ATTENDANCE BY BOTH DCMS AND POLITICAL COUNSELLORS WILL ENRICH THE CONFERENCE AND LEAD TO A MAXIMUM EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON KEY ISSUES, AS IT DID DURING THE FEBRUARY 1976 MEETING.

5. ON SUBSTANCE, WE WOULD EXPECT TO FOCUS THE MAJOR ATTENTION ON POLITICAL-MILITARY-ECONOMIC POLICY ISSUES THAT CUT ACROSS GEOGRAPHIC LINES; I.E. TO STRUCTURE THE AGENDA FUNCTIONALLY. HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO SLIGHT COUNTRY ISSUES AND WOULD PLAN TO PROVIDE FOR BRIEF PRESENTATIONS ON THE MORE IMPORTANT INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY PROBLEMS. WE ALSO WOULD DEVELOP WITH USEC ITEMS ON THE AGENDA THAT WOULD FOCUS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES CENTRAL TO WEST EUROPEAN AND EAST-WEST RELATIONS, AND TO THE INTERPLAY OF EC-NINE AND NATO. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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MILITARY BALANCE, DEFENSE SPENDING TRENDS, EUROCOMMUNISM, THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN EUROPE AND EAST EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENTS WOULD, OF COURSE, ALSO BE OF MAJOR INTEREST IN ADDITION TO CSCE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARMS CONTROL QUESTIONS (ESPECIALLY SALT AND MBFR).

6. ON FUNDING, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT EACH POST AGAIN FUND THE TRAVEL AND PER DIEM OF ITS PARTICIPANTS.

7. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN CONCURRED IN BY USEC.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 30-Aug-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO01505
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703110/baaabcja.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: d29b01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2962764
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> MCM 20040806
Subject: SUBJECT PROPOSED DCM/POLITICAL COUNSELORS' CONFERENCE
TAGS: AORC
To: STATE INFO BRUSSELS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d29b01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009